

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Latisman, Benjamin L. Senator

Represented Linn County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 27. Nov 1878 near Dubuque, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Clara J. Miller 14 Jul 1907

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities Mason

C. Profession Farmer

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 50th, 51st, 52nd General Assembly 1943, 1945, 1947

6. Public Offices

A. Local Richland Township assessor first year, Township school board member for 29 years, Linn County Superintendent 6 terms, member of Old Age Assistance Board for 2 years

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death _____

8. Children Beulah; James; Edna (Mrs. Harold Miller)

9. Names of parents Gottlieb and Curry Latisman

Datesman, Benjamin L.

10. Education He was educated in the public schools in Dubuque, Iowa

11. Degrees He attended Buena Vista College in Illinois

12. Other applicable information Republican
- They moved to Inwood from settling on a farm

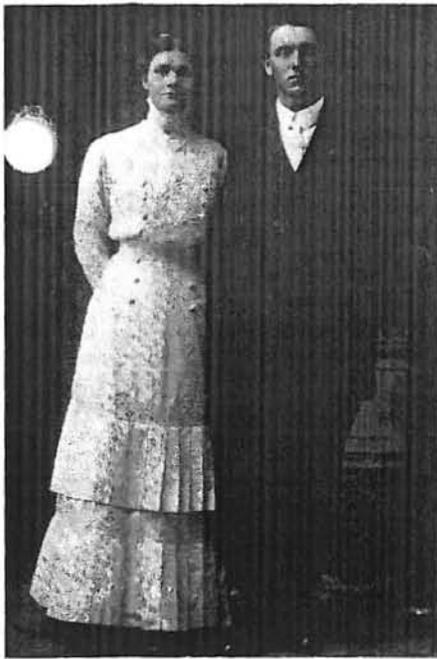
Dutton, George L.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source Non Applicable Applicable Information obtained

- Iowa Official Register 1947-1948, p. 63
- Iowa's First 100 Years 1884-1984, p. 95-96



Margaret and Otto Coyer; married November 16, 1910.

cousin, a grandpa, uncle, sister-in-law, everyone was cared for.

Margaret continued caring for people after she moved to the little blue house at the north end of Main Street in Inwood. She babysat in many homes and would stay with people if they weren't feeling well or recuperating.

She was very active in the Methodist Church. Members still talk of the creamed chicken and biscuits she and Ethel Brown served for the Ladies' Aid in the 30's, the teachers would come after school and the business men around six, all enjoying their 25 cent meal. She enjoyed sewing for the Canton Inwood Hospital with Dora Porter, Lizzie Kahl and others.

Margaret enjoyed gardening, her little corner of the block was filled with blossoms of every kind and many kinds of trees and bushes.

She loved life and made life happy for those around her. Her children and grandchildren adored her. Many pleasant hours were spent with "Grandma Coyer", as nearly everyone called her. She entered Valley Manor nursing home following an illness, there too, she continued to be very active, as someone said, "She attends every activity except mass and she would have gone to that too". She lived there four years, dying August 15, 1981 at the age of ninety-six.

Her husband Otto died September 1946; her farm sale was December 10 of that year; Ernest and Charlotte (Rusch) moved to the farm then.

Margaret has eleven grandchildren: Kenneth and Shirley Cover; Rita and Linda DeVaul; Gloria, Michael, Julie and Curtis Gilbertson; and Nancy, Margo and Emily Porter.

Margaret's brothers and sisters were: Nelson (married Alfred Hazlitt); Peter (married Hannah Reilly); William (married Ada Hazlitt); John (married Elizabeth Rempt); Kate (married John C. Hurdelbrink); Reynold (married Minnie Vande Moore); Annie (married Joseph Benson); and Henry, born

in the United States, (married Gladys Johnson).

Margaret Coyer and Otto Coyer were married in her home November 16, 1910 by Rev. F.F. Travis of the Methodist Church in Rock Valley. Their attendants were Tressa Coyer and Henry Tuynman.

by Lorrain Porter

DATISMAN, BENJAMIN LOUIS

F43



Ben Datisman (around 1935).



Mrs. Ben Datisman (around 1935).

Benjamin Louis Datisman of Dubuque

County, Iowa and Clara Freda Miller of Clayton County, Iowa were united in marriage at the bride's parental home on February 4, 1907. They came to Inwood and settled on the land Ben had bought in 1906. He paid about \$66 per acre for the 160 acre farm, according to the warranty deed the family has in their possession. The land was sold by Hans and Bertha Jacobson, who had apparently gone back to Norway, as the deed has stamps of Norway on it from the American Consulate in Stawanger.

Life in the early days was not easy. Work on the farm began at 5:00 A.M. Horses were the power used and they needed rest at noon time as well as the men. Corn was planted and the cultivating was done with a one row cultivator. The fields were checked so the corn could be plowed both ways. No one thought about erosion. By July 4th the corn would be about knee high and it was usually plowed for the last time.

The harvest of small grain entailed using a binder to cut the oats and then the work of shocking it took place. The farm wife had a busy time when the threshing crew came. Many times there were 15 men to feed. Mrs. Stewart often came from town to help Clara. Neighbors got together in what was called a "ring" and helped each other with the harvest. A most unpleasant job was making a straw pile. A haphazard straw stack was a sign of a poor farmer and Ben didn't want to be in that group. Chaff, dust and dirt plus fiery red eyes indicated the straw work was over.

The old house on the farm was replaced with a large spacious four bedroom home. A Mr. Goldsmith of Alford was the main carpenter with Ben helping with the work. It was completed in the spring of 1913. It was considered very modern as it had a furnace, bathroom, and running water in the kitchen. Gas lights in the downstairs gave excellent illumination. Kerosene lamps were used other places. The chore of the three daughters, Beulah, Ferne and Edna was to keep the lamp chimneys shining.

Saturday night was something the family enjoyed. Eggs were taken to be traded for groceries, farmers compared corn crops, the size of the spring pigs, hired men, the weather and any other neighborhood news. Getting a good parking place was important. If a space could be found near the Model Store it was considered super. One could sit in the car and watch the crowds go by. If the family had off street parking, usually the meeting place before going home was H.G. Anderson's Harness Shop on Main Street. Anderson also repaired car tops and shoes. The 3 girls were given ten or fifteen cents to spend. With ice cream cones for five cents, it made for a fine treat. You could also buy pop corn from a portable glass enclosed machine for five cents. Mr. Pickett ran it. Someone called it Pickett's Peppy Popcorn Wagon!

Ben supervised the men who had to work their poll tax. This was done to improve the roads. He also had a horse-drawn grader with heavy blades that he used, to keep the road past the farm as smooth as possible.

The Dirty Thirties were trying times. There was no rain and each day in 1936 there would be hot winds blowing over the fields of corn. The crops were a failure and withered away in the sun. A hired man, a newcomer from Norway, would scan the sky and if he'd see any semblance of a cloud he'd say, "It's

fixin' up!" His way of saying . . . maybe rain would come. The dust blew and filled the ditches and in some places even covered the fences.

One Sunday the Datismans had invited company for dinner. The sky darkened, the lamps were lighted, and dust seemed to cover every window sill. When the plates were removed from the table you could see the outline of them on the linen tablecloth. Spirits were low all over the area at that time.

Butchering was usually an event when neighbors helped one another. Hogs were scalded in a large iron pot and the bristles scraped off. When beef was butchered usually neighbors divided it. There were no home freezers so the meat was fried down in huge earthen jars or canned. Ben was very good at making sausage. He would season the meat and with the sausage machine fill the casings. They were either fried down or canned in two-quart Mason jars. The lard was rendered in the kitchen and the odor of fat would linger for a long time. It was a messy job to clean things up and bring them back to normal.

Corn picking time on the farm was a chore. If a farmer finished about Thanksgiving time he did well. I can still hear the sound of corn hitting the bang board of the wagon. If one picked 50 bushels by noon he was considered very good. Those who picked 100 bushels a day were excellent pickers. Many farmers had to unload the ears by hand but Ben had an elevator powered by horses that hoisted the corn into the granary. The men were paid by the bushel. It seems there were times when they received 2 to 5 cents per bushel. Of course, their board, room, washing were included.

In spite of all the demanding work of the farm, Ben found time to take part in community work. He was township assessor for many years, secretary of the Richland Township School Board. The teachers used to come at the end of the month for their checks. He ran for county supervisor and served on that board for 16 years. He was elected as state representative from 1943 to 1948 and after that he again served on the board of supervisors. He and his wife retired to Inwood in 1945 and his daughter Edna and her husband Harold Miller took over the operation of the family farm until they moved to Spirit Lake in 1983.

The Datisman family worked and worshipped in the Methodist church and both Mr. and Mrs. Datisman were life long members. They are buried in the Richland Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Datisman, I'm sure, were typical of their peers. In the early years of the Inwood area they all faced hard problems both physically and financially. They had a strong moral fiber which seems to have been prominent in those who built our area.

There have been many changes since Ben and Clara came to Lyon County. It is hoped the changes that have taken place, may be of interest to those who have experienced them as well as to those who are now moving in the "fast lane" of life. . . .

by Mrs. Harold Miller

DeHAAN, CORNIE FAMILY

F44



Front: Cornie, Viola; Back: Bonnie, Don (1983).

Cornelius (Cornie) De Haan, son of Gerrit and Adriana De Haan, was born April 22, 1929, on a farm near Sioux Center, Iowa. He comes from a family of eight children. Three brothers, John, Tony, and Gary, and two sets of twin sisters, Tilly and Judy, and Bettie and Marie. He attended two different country grade schools. Following his eighth grade graduation, he with his family, moved to a farm near Lebanon, Iowa. During his teenage years, Cornie spent his time working on the home farm and also working for other farmers.

Viola Elaine Boersma was born May 19, 1930, to Neal and Bessie Boersma on a farm near Inwood, Iowa. She lived on a farm until she was three years old. In 1933, she with her parents, moved to Inwood where Neal and Bessie owned and operated Boersman's Store. She has one sister, Ella Mae. Viola attended Inwood grade and High School. Following graduation in 1949, she worked in Neal's Market.

Cornie and Viola met in 1949. They became engaged in December, 1950. Cornie was inducted into the Army in September, 1951. He was stationed at Granite Falls, Illinois, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Belvoir, Virginia. On September 24, 1953, his two years were up and he was discharged from the service.

On October 8, 1953, Cornie and Viola were married by Rev. Louis Bouma in the Christian Reformed Church. Their first home was made in an apartment in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Cornie worked at the John Morrell Packing Plant. In March of 1954, they moved to a farm 6 north and 2¼ west of Inwood.

After living in town, life on the farm was quite an adjustment for Viola. Running water for the house was supplied by the little red pump in the porch. Remodeling of their home was done in 1960 when more modern conveniences were made.

On January 20, 1955 their daughter, Bonnie Nell, was born at the Canton Hospital. Their son, Don Alan, was born November 22, 1957.

Life on the farm was a busy one. Cornie kept busy raising sheep, hogs, calves, chickens, milking cows and also raising crops. Cornie became a dealer in 1964 for the DeKalb Seed Corn Company. After twenty years he continues to do this.

Many scenery changes have occurred since

their move to the farm. Gone are the well-remembered gravel roads to town. From 1973 to its opening in 1977 it was interesting to watch the making of Lake Pahoja. Cornie and Don enjoy time spent fishing at the lake.

Many changes have also occurred on the farm. Due to a wind storm in 1978, which destroyed their barn and damaged their home and other buildings, much rebuilding has been done. A hog confinement was built in 1978. In 1979 a new home was constructed. In December of 1979 the move was made to their new home.

Bonnie and Don attended Inwood Christian Grade School. In 1973 Bonnie graduated from West Lyon High School. Following graduation Bonnie did secretarial work at the Dordt College business office and at Hope Haven. In 1974, she and Michael Knobloch were married. After living on a farm near Larchwood, Iowa they moved to Inwood in 1976. Mike works for the Inwood Hatchery and Feed Mill. They and their children, Valerie and Geoffrey, live at 112 Jefferson Street.

Don graduated in 1976 from Western Christian High School. Don also took a welding course at Northwest Iowa Vocational School. He received his diploma for this in 1976. His time is now spent raising feeder pigs and farming.

Cornie and Viola attend the Christian Reformed Church in Inwood where Cornie is now serving in the consistory. Today Cornie and Viola are still living on their farm northwest of Inwood.

by Cornie De Haan

DENEKAS FAMILY

F45



Rev. Raymond and Edith Denekas, Carol DeJong, and James Denekas. (Picture taken in 1982 when Rev. Denekas was 65 years old).

Although the roots of the Raymond Denekas family did not originate in Northwest Iowa, we do feel a deep sense of commitment to this area where several rewarding years of our lives have been spent. Thus we include our history in Inwood's Centennial book.

Raymond Denekas was born and lived on